DAZZLE

MINARI ENDOH

1

TOKYOPOP

One day, my father came up to me and said,
RAHZEL, MY DARLING...
...HOW'D YOU LIKE TO GO OUT AND SEE THE WORLD?
REMEMBER WHEN YOU SAID YOU WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO TRAVELING AND GROWING THROUGH ADVERSITY?
I DID?
I KNEW HOW ENTHUSIASTIC YOU'D BE, SO I GOT YOUR BAG READY.
What the hell gave you THAT idea?!
I'M SUCH A PERFECT FATHER!
WAIT A MINUTE...! I DIDN'T EVEN GET A CHANCE TO--
ALRIGHTY, THEN! IT'S TIME TO START GROWING!

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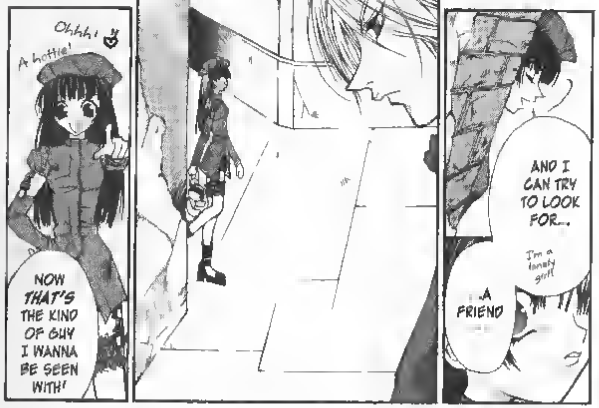
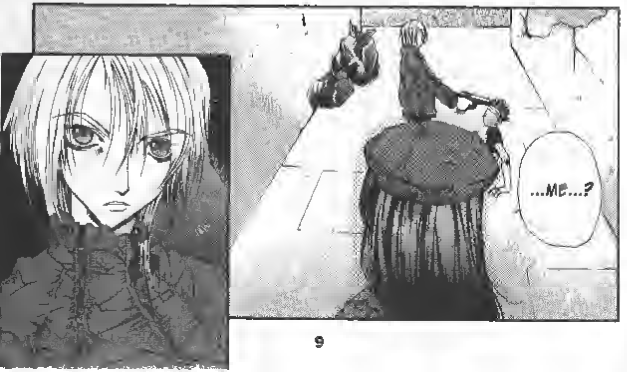
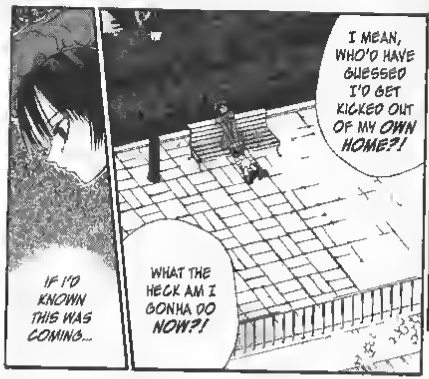
Chapter 1: Prelude

WELL... THERE'S NO TIME LIKE THE PRES-ENT!
DON'T STAY UP TOO LATE! AND DON'T FOLLOW STRANGERS, EVEN IF THEY FEED YOU, OKAY?!
WELL, BE CAREFUL! OH--AND HAVE A NICE TRIP!
WHA--? EH? HUH?!
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!
And that's how my journey began.


Ohhh! A hottie!
NOW THAT'S THE KIND OF GUY I WANNA BE SEEN WITH!
AND I CAN TRY TO LOOK FOR...
I'm a lonely girl
...A FRIEND

HEY THERE, GOOD-LOOKIN'! WANNA HANG OUT WITH...


...ME...?


IF I'D KNOWN THIS WAS COMING...
WHAT THE HECK AM I GONNA DO NOW?!
I MEAN, WHO'D HAVE GUESSED I'D GET KICKED OUT OF MY OWN HOME?!
WELL, I DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING

I MUST BE TRUE TO MYSELF, EVEN IF LIFE SUCKS!!
NO! NO MORE NEGATIVE THOUGHTS!

I MEAN, HOW THE HECK WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW..
I WOULDVE AT LEAST HAD ANOTHER BOWL OF RICE!

UGH! DINNER WAS SO BLAND BUT I SHOULDVE EATEN MORE!

I NEED TO KEEP MY HEAD ON STRAIGHT.. AND START LOOKING FOR A CHEAP HOTEL.
FINDING A PLACE TO CRASH TONIGHT IS A GOOD START
ぐもーん
Cheer up!

..THAT IT WAS GOING TO BE MY LAST MEAL?

HA HA! IT'S MINE NOW, SUCKER!
WH-WHAT THE HECK?!
SHIT.
HA! THANKS FOR THE DISTRACTION, KID!
A GRUDGE?!
I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE!
I am gonna kill you!

HOLY SHIT! HE'S BAD NEWS!!
SOMETHING YOU WANT?
N-NOTHING, S-SIR!
PLEASE FORGIVE THE INTRUSION!
THEN GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE...
...LITTLE BRAT.
little brat
?!
You really kicked me off!
I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE! THOUGH...
...I BET YOU'RE NOT WORTH USING EVEN 30 PERCENT OF MY POWER!
VERY WELL... BRING IT ON. BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE--YOU'RE THE ONE PICKING THE FIGHT.
SO I DON'T WANT YOU HOLDING A GRUDGE WHEN YOU LOSE.
A SORCERESS, HUH?

UGH...

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, HONEY!
SEE YA!
WAIT--!!

FINE I WON'T
...DON'T TELL ME THAT GUY WAS ACTUALLY A THIEF

UMM...

.....
LOOK.. I'M SORRY ABOUT JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS EARLIER...
SO, DINNER'S ON ME!
GO ON--HELP YOURSELF TO WHATEVER YOU WANT!

WAS THAT GUN SOME KIND OF HEIRLOOM?
IT LOOKED LIKE A REAL ANTIQUE FROM THE PREVIOUS CIVILIZATION...
HOW MUCH WAS IT WORTH?

UM, MR. ALZEID...?
JUST CALL ME ALZEID.

IF YOU'RE OFFERING TO REPLACE IT FOR ME...
...THEN FORGET IT.
IT'S WORTH MORE MONEY THAN YOU COULD EVER PAY.

YOU'RE TRAVELING ALONE, RIGHT?
WELL, I'LL GO WITH YOU AND HELP OUT!

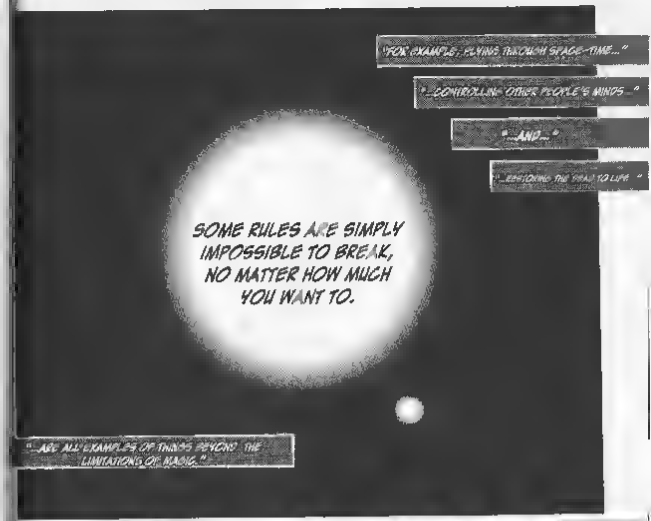
OH YEAH?! WELL... I'LL PAY WITH MY BODY!
Yeah
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT THE HELL YOU'RE SAYING?!

I've got no flippin' idea what that was supposed to mean
WHAT? ARE YOU TRYING TO CONFUSE ME?
IT MEANS EXACTLY WHAT I SAID.
Sigh... I'll leave my money here, 'kay?
I COULD JUST AS EASILY SAY I'M LOOKING TO AVENGE MYSELF.
IN ONE WAY, NE WAS MY FATHER...
...BUT IN ANOTHER WAY, NE WAS EXACTLY LIKE ME.
HOLD ON! I WAS GOING TO COVER IT!
NO THANKS CHARITY FROM YOU IS THE LAST THING I NEED.

I'M SEARCHING FOR THE PERSON WHO KILLED MY FATHER.
WHAT?!
SORRY, BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME TO BABY-SIT.
.....
BONJOUR! S'IL VOUS PLAIT?
DID YOU GET DROPPED ON YOUR HEAD AS A CHILD?
YOU'RE PRACTICALLY REEKING FILIAL ADORATION
I WILL NOT REST UNTIL I HAVE AVENGED NIM.
?
What made him open up?

HE...
VANISHED?!
WHEN HE SAID FLY, DID HE MEAN THROUGH SPACE-TIME?
?!
"LISTEN CLOSELY, RAHZEL."
"OUR MAGIC CAN ONLY CONTROL WHAT WE CAN SEE WITH OUR OWN EYES."
BUT THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO DO USING MAGIC!
"EVEN THE MOST VERSATILE POWER WORKS ACCORDING TO CERTAIN RULES."
IT'LL BE EASIER TO FIND WITH MORE PEOPLE LOOKING!
I'VE GOT IT UNDER CONTROL.
SEE YA
WAIT! I WANT TO HELP YOU!
BUT YOU LOST YOUR GUN BECAUSE OF ME!
I TOLD YOU TO FORGET IT.
I'LL GET THE GUN BACK SOON ENOUGH.
I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE IT IS
I'LL JUST FLY THERE IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE

IF REVENGE IS ALL HE CARES ABOUT, THEN HE'S A FOOL
LIVING HIS OWN LIFE SHOULD BE MORE IMPORTANT TO HIM THAN OBSESSING ABOUT SOMEONE WHO'S ALREADY DEAD!
THERE WAS NO JOY IN HIS EYES
.....
ALTHOUGH HIS FACE WAS DEFINITELY MY TYPE
I COULD DO WITHOUT THAT COLD ATTITUDE!
THOUGH.. THAT FACE WOULD DEFINITELY LOOK NICER WITH A SMILE ON IT
UGH! WHY DO I CARE SO MUCH ABOUT SOME STRANGER?!


"FOR EXAMPLE: FLYING THROUGH SPACE-TIME..."
"...CONTROLLING OTHER PEOPLE'S MINDS..."
"...AND..."
"...BRINGING THE DEAD TO LIFE."
SOME RULES ARE SIMPLY IMPOSSIBLE TO BREAK, NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU WANT TO.
"...ARE ALL EXAMPLES OF THINGS BEYOND THE LIMITATIONS OF MAGIC."

IT'S NOT LIKE WE'LL EVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN, ANYWAY!
BUT HOW COME HE COULD...?
WELL, WHO CARES?
Like I said... it's impossible
I HATED BEING TOLD SOMETHING'S IMPOSSIBLE..
...SO I IGNORED HIM AND TRIED TO DO IT ANYWAY
BUT NOTHING EVER WORKED
Grrrrr! Work! Work!

GWAAH!!
"I JUST AIN'T"? MY, MY—SUCH GRAMMAR!
I JUST AIN'T CUT OUT FOR HARD WORK LIKE HONEST PEOPLE
HEY--DON'T HATE ME FOR WANTING TO LIVE THE EASY LIFE!
SORRY! NO WAY I'M GIVING THIS BACK!
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH A GUN LIKE THIS IS WORTH?!
AYAWA
I TAKE IT YOU WEREN'T VALEDICTORIAN OF YOUR GRADUATING CLASS, EH?
HEY! ON YOUR FEET!
I'M GOING TO TURN YOU IN TO THE PATROL SQUAD*!
LOOK—IT'S NOBODY'S BUSINESS IF YOU WANNA BE LAZY BUT WHEN YOU TAKE OTHER PEOPLE'S STUFF—THEN YOU MAKE IT THEIR BUSINESS.
AND IF YOU GET HURT IN THE PROCESS—WELL, THAT'S ONLY WHAT YOU DESERVE, EH?
IT'S WEIRD...
EVEN THOUGH...
...I'LL PROBABLY NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN...
NOW THEN...OH, YES...MY GUN, IF YOU PLEASE.
BEEP!
...I...
PLAYING WITH HIM LIKE THIS IS JUST GETTING BORING
Yawn
.....
PERHAPS I SHOULD KILL HIM NOW
GO TO HE--
UNH!

HERE--
CATCH!
OKAY
C'MON! GIVE ME THE GUN!
IDIOT!
I DIDN'T MEAN FOR YOU TO THROW IT!
DAMN
SHUT UP!
TALK ABOUT BEING NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS...
I JUST WANTED TO BEAT THIS GUY UP 'CAUSE HE TICKED ME OFF EARLIER!
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO HELP YOU!
WELL, NOW...THIS IS A ROLE REVERSAL.
I'M SORRY MY ONLY TACTIC IS SO LAME.
ARE YOU JUST GOING TO KEEP USING THAT SAME OLD STUPID TACTIC?

I DON'T CARE IF HE MAKES FUN OF ME...
ALLEID!!
I'M NOT LETTING YOU OUT OF MY SIGHT!
OR IF HE SAYS HE DOESN'T NEED MY HELP
WAIT FOR ME! I'M COMING WITH YOU!
YOU'VE GOT NO SAY IN THE MATTER!
THIS IS...
...A DECLARATION OF WAR!
I'M GONNA TAKE THAT STUPID, BORING LIFE OF YOURS...
...AND CHANGE IT INTO SOMETHING WORTH SMILING ABOUT!

"THANKS"?
THAT'S ALL YOU SAY WHEN I SAVE YOUR BUTT?!
THANKS FOR THE HELP.

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT.
BYE.

NO!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANTED TO SAY!
H-HEY!

WOULD IT KILL YOU TO SMILE?! EVEN JUST A LITTLE?!
IT SHOULD BE AGAINST THE LAW TO WASTE SUCH A HANDSOME FACE ON A SOURPUSS EXPRESSION LIKE THAT!
Y'KNOW, IF YOU KEEP IT UP, YOUR FACE'LL STICK LIKE THAT!

IT MADE ME FEEL LIKE YOU DIDN'T WANT ME ANYMORE...
...EVEN THOUGH I'M THE ONLY FAMILY YOU HAVE...
ALL RIGHT!
I'M GONNA MAKE YOU REGRET IN YOUR BONES HOW YOU'VE LIVED UP TO NOW!
AND THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT?
HOWEVER
DAD...AT FIRST I WAS A LITTLE BIT SAD...
...WHEN YOU SENT ME OUT ON THIS TRIP
What?
SLACKER
FINE. I'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO AT LEAST TRY

Chapter 2: Separation

I REALIZED THAT WHEN IT'S OVER, YOU'LL BE WAITING FOR ME WITH THE WORDS "WELCOME HOME."
WHEN YOU SAID, "BE CAREFUL" AND "HAVE A NICE TRIP"
I HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT, RIGHT?
NICE TO HAVE YOU WITH ME
PARTNER!
I SURE HOPE SHE DOESN'T START FOLLOWING SOME STRANGE MAN
Too late
RANZEL, MY BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER
PLEASE COME HOME SOON! I MISS YOU ALREADY!
Little did I know at the moment I was thinking that—
my dad was in tears
Boo hoo hoo hoo!

I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO YOU ANYMORE!
OH. IS THAT THE END OF OUR COMPANIONSHIP?
SO?
DAMN IT!
Cat Handbook
NAMES ARE SIMPLY SEMIOTIC DEVICES FOR DISTINGUISHING INDIVIDUALS--THEY HAVE NO INTRINSIC VALUE IN AND OF THEMSELVES.
CLAPTRAP!
I WON'T BE SWAYED BY TECHNOBABBLE THAT MAKES NO SENSE!
MY NAME IS RAHZEL!
NOT "HEY YOU" OR "STUPID CHICK" OR "LITTLE RAT"! I'M NOT SOME KIND OF SMALL ANIMAL!!
HEY--IF NAMES MATTER SO LITTLE TO YOU...
...THEN I'VE GOT A GREAT IDEA!
WHO CARES ABOUT YOUR NAME?
I'M GONNA CHANGE YOUR NAME!
FROM NOW ON, YOUR NAME IS "KITTYPON"!
ALZEID--I MEAN, KITTYPON--YOU'RE A STUPIDHEAD!
I HOPE YOU GET WRAPPED IN MOCHI* AND EATEN! (LIKE IN THAT ANCIENT JAPANESE FOLKTALE.)
DON'T JUST SPOUT NONSENSE AND TAKE OFF!
NO WAY! I'M JUST GOING TO TAKE A WALK!
SO DON'T GO ANYWHERE! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK...

WERE THEY THE PATROL SQUAD?
EEEK!
H-HEY!
MEN ARE SO INSENSITIVE!
ESPECIALLY THE ONES WITH PALE SKIN!
MAINLY ALZEID!
"I HAVE NO INTERESTS."
WHAT A JERK!
UGH! WHY DOES HE HAVE TO BE SO STUBBORN?!
WE'VE GOT YOU CORNERED!
HEY!
NO! LET ME GO!
DON'T TRY TO RESIST!
NOW HAND OVER THAT FILE!
ARE YOU GUYS DEAF?!
HEY! WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?!
SORRY!
EEEK!
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING I CAN DO TO PUNISH HIM FOR ACTING LIKE THAT
Clomp! Clomp! Clomp!

I TRIED THAT AT FIRST! BUT THEY JUST CAME AFTER ME, SHOUTING, "WE CAN'T LET YOU LEAVE ALIVE!"
SO I SNATCHED IT AGAIN AND TOOK OFF.
THOUGH YOUR BRAVERY IS RATHER IMPRESSIVE, I'M NOT SURE YOU'RE EXACTLY PRAISE-WORTHY.
IT'S A DANGEROUS FILE FROM INSIDE THE PATROL SQUAD ORGANIZATION
THOUGH I HAD NO IDEA IT WAS SO SCARY WHEN I SWIPED IT.
SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST GIVE IT TO THEM?
THEN YOU COULD JUST RUN AWAY.
WHO'RE YOU?!
FOOD IS THE CULMINATION OF THE LIVES OF ANIMALS AND PLANTS, IN ADDITION TO THE STRENUOUS EFFORTS OF HARDWORKING PEOPLE IN THE AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERY INDUSTRIES!
HUH...?
ANSWER WHEN SOME-ONE TALKS TO YOU!
IN OTHER WORDS
...THIS IS REVENGE FOR THE CHERRY VANILLA AND CASSIS SHERBET AND RUM RAISIN!
PLUS, I HAVE TO GET BACK TO MY PART-NER AT THE MOTEL.
WE'RE KIND OF IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIGHT, THOUGH...
SORRY...BUT I HAVE NO DESIRE TO BE PART OF ANY CRIME.
I BET YOU CAN GET PRETTY GOOD MONEY FOR IT.
I'LL LET YOU HAVE THIS IF YOU HELP ME GET OUT OF TOWN SAFELY.
FLAW-LESS VICTORY!
FEEL THEIR PAIN!!
SO ...THIS IS WHAT THEY WERE CHASING YOU FOR

OKAY I'LL DO IT
BUT...
GIVING ME A LOOK LIKE THAT IS NO FAIR...
AH HA HA...! YOU REALLY ARE A GOOD GIRL
Eh, heh!
ONCE I'VE MADE UP MY MIND ON SOMETHING NOT EVEN DEATH WILL KEEP ME FROM IT!
AND ONCE I DECIDE NOT TO DO SOMETHING, THEN NOTHING IN THE WORLD CAN MAKE ME!! (BASICALLY, I'M LAZY)
SO YOU BETTER GIVE UP ON TRYING TO CONVINCE ME, OKAY?
...ONLY AFTER HELPING YOU OUT, VIC
Hmph!!
WERE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?!
YEAH, YEAH I HEARD YOU I GUESS I WILL MAKE UP
BUT ALL THAT CAN WAIT UNTIL LATER
HEY... RANZEL?
IT'S MY BUSINESS I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.
GO MAKE UP WITH YOUR PARTNER.
WHAT'D YOU SAY?!
HUH. WELL, I GUESS I DESERVE WHATEVER HAPPENS TO ME..
YOU REALLY ARE CHILDISH. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO APOLOGIZES TO WHOM.
IT WAS HIS FAULT! NO WAY I'M GONNA APOLO-GIZE!
NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF MY PERSONAL DIGNITY AND REASON FOR LIVING!
IT'S NOT SUCH A BIG DEAL...
ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T REGRET IT IF YOU'RE SEPARATED FROM THEM FOREVER?
BREAKING UP WITH SOMEONE IS THE EASY WAY OUT

MY FATHER... ALZEID...
I DON'T KNOW I WAS BORN WITH THE POWER. IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO JUST "LEARN IT."
I'VE ONLY MET THREE OR FOUR PEOPLE WITH MAGICAL POWER IN MY LIFE
I ENDED UP COMING WITH HER WITHOUT TELLING ALZEID
I SEE. THAT SUCKS.
IF I HAD BEEN BORN WITH POWER LIKE THAT, MY LIFE WOULD HAVE BEEN A LOT EASIER.
YOU CERTAINLY ARE ONE STRANGE LITTLE GIRL...
WHAAAAT?!
DO YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE ALREADY A CRIMINAL BY ASSOCIATION WITH ME?
HUH? OH, YEAH
MAGICAL POWER COMES IN HANDY SOMETIMES.
I WONDER IF I COULD USE MAGIC
THAT'S CONVEN-IENT

NOW THAT I THINK OF IT..
- BACK THEN, I WAS AS BAD AS RAHZEL.
HEY, VIC...?
Ah ha ha
STUPID SAIKI!
VIC?
Hee hee hee
"DON'T TELL US HOW TO LIVE OUR LIVES!"
"I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU."
I DON'T KNOW HOW I ENDED UP BECOMING A CRIMINAL
I WISH I COULD GO BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE...
"I'M LEAVING THIS VILLAGE!"
I KNOW I SAID THAT..
...BUT THE AMOUNT OF ENEMIES COULD BE HARSH ON SUCH A PRETTY GIRL AS ME
YOU'RE NOT PLANNING ON FIGHTING THEM ALONE, ARE YOU?
OH..! S-SORRY! WHAT IS IT?
YOU GOTTA HIDE SOMEWHERE! THEY JUST GOT HERE!
BUT THEY ARE IDIOTS, IN THE END. EVEN THEIR FACES LOOK IDIOTIC.
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
ALL RIGHT!
THEY MUST'VE SEEN OUR FIRE...
"BUT, WE...HEY, SAIKI! TALK SOME SENSE TO HER!"
"YOU WANT TO JUST GROW OLDER IN THIS LITTLE WORLD?!"
"DON'T YOU HAVE ANY HOPES OR DREAMS?"

WHAT THE HELL DID YOU 007?!
GAH!
...TO POINT THINGS LIKE THAT AT PEOPLE?!
OUCH!
THAT BULLET ACTUALLY GRAZED ME!
GOOOAMMIT!! DIDN'T YOUR MOTHER TELL YOU IT'S DANGER-OUS...
HERE GOES!
HELLO, GENTLEMEN!
FEEL THE STING OF MY SNEAK ATTACK!!
ka-bam !!
!!

HOW DARE YOU DO THAT TO MY SOFT SKIN?!
SLASH!!
?!

I'M JUST FINE!! I CAN EVEN SAY A BUDDHIST SUTRA RIGHT NOW!
YOU LOOK PRETTY SCARY.

?!
I'D BETTER GET YOU OUT OF HERE...

SHOOT! THAT'S ONE DEEP GASH!
RAHZEL!
OWIE...!

YOU GUYS ARE JUST TOO WEAK FOR ME!
RAHZEL!

PHEW...

DIEEEEE!!

UNH...
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO GO HIDE!

I SAW THE WHOLE THING! YOU'RE PRETTY INCREDIBLE!
YIC!!

Pet

DO THAT SOME-WHERE ELSE..

HOW ABOUT I PUMMEL YOU AND YOUR CRUMMY LOVEY-DOVEY MOOD?!
HERE I AM ON MY DEATHBED, AND YOU GUYS GO AND SMEAR YOUR HAPPINESS ALL OVER ME!
S-SORRY..
YOU'RE RIGHT..

I CAN'T JUST LEAVE YOU HERE!
I'M FINE! I CAN MEND THIS WITH MY MAGIC, NO SWEAT.
Drip...
Drip...

GO AND MAKE UP WITH HIM!

SAIKI!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
WAAH!!
AH...
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN FIGHT HIM RIGHT NOW...
IS HE ANOTHER HIT MAN?

I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING OF THE SORT
JUST—
YOU THINK I'M A FOOL?!
UM. ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME VIC?
WELL, DO YOU KNOW HIM?
I JUST HAPPENED TO BE PASSING THROUGH..
LIAR! YOU CAME TO SEE WHAT A MESS I'VE MADE OF MYSELF!

HOW ANNOYING!!

WHAT?!
JUST WHAT?!
WELL, UM...
Snap!
Cerebral Nerves
(Illustration)

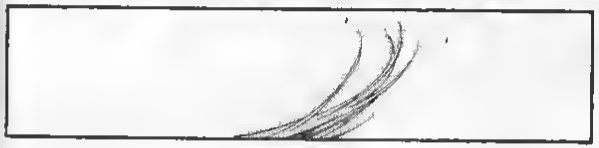
THOUGH I AM THE ONE WHO TOLD HER TO LEAVE..
I'M HAPPY FOR HER.
I GUESS SHE'S GONE.
BUT NOW THAT I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN LEFT BEHIND.. IT MAKES ME KINDA SAD
...AND A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE WILL WELCOME HER.
SHE AT LEAST HAS SOMEONE TO COME GET HER..
"BREAKING UP WITH SOMEONE IS THE EASY WAY OUT"
I SHOULD MAKE UP WITH ALZBIO WHEN I GET BACK TO THE HOTEL
"ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T REGRET IT IF YOU'RE SEPARATED FROM THEM FOREVER?"
PERSONAL DIGNITY ISN'T THAT IMPORTANT
I SHOULD SELL ALL MY STUPID PRIDE TO A PAWNSHOP
EVEN THOUGH IT KILLS ME TO HAVE TO FORGIVE SOMEONE...
...WHO THINKS NAMES AREN'T WORTH SQUAT..

...I'M NOT SO SURE I CAN PROTECT MYSELF.
IF THOSE PATROL SQUAD GUYS GET UP NOW...
I DON'T NEED ANYONE SLOWING ME DOWN.
GOT IT?
IT'S JUST TOO EMBARRASSING.
YEAH...
I WON'T TELL HER THE TRUTH...
BUT...
JUST GO!!

HEH HEH...

HEY. YOU DEAD?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO INSISTED ON FOLLOWING ME.
SO IT WOULD BE PRETTY DAMN DUMB OF YOU TO DIE LIKE THIS.
BESIDES YOU STILL HAVEN'T MADE ME SMILE LIKE YOU SAID YOU WOULD

I'VE REALIZED THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN PRIDE.



DON'T TELL ME...
RAHZEL...
HUH...MY INJURY'S ALL HEALED NOW...
DID I COME BACK HERE BY MYSELF?
I REMEMBER PASSING OUT...
Umm...
NO WAY! HE COULDN'T HAVE SAVED ME!!
Who's Kittypon?
AND THE NERVE OF HIM... CALLING ME FILTHY!!
WAIT..
.. NOW THAT YOU'RE AWAKE, HOW ABOUT A SHOWER?
YOU'RE PRETTY FILTHY
OH, KITTYPON!

IDIOT...
UMM...
W-WHERE AM I?

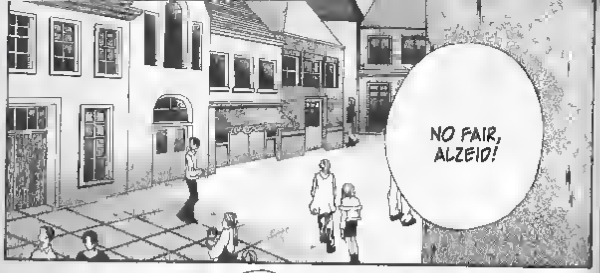
What and Why in Dazzle
"In chapter two, Alzeid was reading some Cat Handbook. Do you like cats, Alzeid? I thought that was cute.
THIS IS A QUESTION FROM A FAN.
.....
HORSES
..I GUESS
I BET YOU JUST RIP ANYTHING YOU PICK UP, FROM PHONE BOOKS TO BODICE-RIPPERS.
I GUESS...
IS THERE ANY ANIMAL YOU LIKE?
Though I don't even remember reading anything like that.
STOMACH?!
THEY'RE CONVENIENT FOR RIDING AROUND...
AND I CAN EVEN FILL UP MY STOMACH WITH THEM.

WITHOUT AN HONORIFIC TITLE?!
IT'S EASIER THAN CALLING YOU STUPID CHICK OR LITTLE RAT.
Shame?
JUST NOW...
YOU CALLED ME BY MY NAME.
WHERE'S MY HONORIFIC?! LIKE SAMA OR DONO?!
IF YOU'VE GOT ANY COMPLAINTS, I'LL JUST STOP USING YOUR NAME AT ALL-- STUPID CHICK!
Noo!
FORGET WHAT I JUST SAID! HOW ABOUT YOU JUST CALL ME RAHZEL WITH NO HONORIFIC?! WHAT A WONDERFUL IDEA!

LET'S HAVE A LITTLE CONTEST! NO TIME LIMIT WHOEVER BEATS MORE THAN HALF OF THEM AUTOMATICALLY WINS!
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, WE CAN'T USE ANY WEAPONS OR MAGICAL POWERS, OKAY?
WHAT'S THE POINT OF A CONTEST?
I FOUND A BEAUTIFUL BOY!
I WANT HIM!
SO WE CAN ENJOY LIFE'S LITTLE TROUBLES-- JUST AS IF IT WERE A GAME!
LIAR.
WOW! LOOK! LOOK, TAKI!

Planets
ALL LIFE EXISTS TO BE EATEN.. INCLUDING HUMAN BEINGS.
THIS IS A WORLD WHERE THE STRONG FEED ON THE WEAK.
E-EXCUSE ME, ALZEID?
I DON'T THINK THAT'S QUITE WHAT SHE'S ASKING...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
HE'S SO COOL.
HE'S A TRUE MAN.
WE'LL BE WAITING FOR MORE OF YOUR QUESTIONS.
I LIKE COWS, TOO.
THEY TASTE GOOD.

Chapter 3: Caged Bird



FIRST OF ALL, I'VE ALREADY GOT A HUGE SIZE DISAD-VANTAGE!
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN EATING THAT MADE YOU SO BIG?!
YOU WANT ME TO GIVE YOU DIET ADVICE?

NOT ONLY DOES SHE HAVE A COLD...SHE'S PHYSICALLY OVERWORKED, AS WELL.
I'LL PRESCRIBE SOME MEDICINE FOR HER.
SEE THAT SHE GETS A LOT OF NUTRITION AND REST.
Hotel
I'M SORRY.

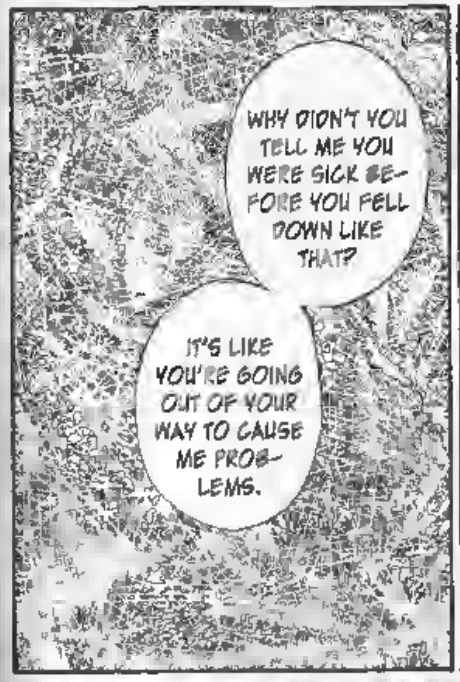
IN THE NAME OF FAIRNESS, I ORDER YOU TO GIVE ME FIVE PERCENT OF YOUR HEIGHT!
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM TODAY?
I CAN'T GET TALLER, BUT I CAN AT LEAST BUFF UP!
YOU WANT TO GET A SIX PACK?
?
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO'S STRONGER, DOES IT?
WE DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT EACH OTHER
RAHZEL...?

WELL, I GUESS IT'S GOOD SHE HAS AN APPETITE.
I WANT PUDDING.
WHAT?
ALZEID?

I THOUGHT YOU'D LEAVE ME BEHIND IF YOU FOUND OUT I WAS SICK...
LIKE I COULD SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO HIM...
Too embarrassing.

I REALLY AM OUT OF MY DEPTH, THOUGH.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TREAT A SICK PERSON.
Anyway, where can I find pudding?
EXCUSE ME...

OH MAN.
IS THIS HER WAY OF NOT MAKING ME WORRY ABOUT HER?
BY AVOIDING TELLING ME ANYTHING IMPORTANT WHILE SCREAMING ABOUT STUPID STUFF?


WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOU WERE SICK BEFORE YOU FELL DOWN LIKE THAT?
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY TO CAUSE ME PROBLEMS.

THAT WIMPY LOOK ON YOUR FACE MAKES ME WANNA THROW UP
I WILL KILL YOU.
THAT'S MY GIRL
FU FU

I'LL BE BACK BY EVENING.
IN THE MEANTIME, TRY TO GET SOME REST.

I'M GONNA GO OUT.

More depressed
UP
SORRY...

MY NAME IS TAKI. I AM A SERVANT OF MISS LINA RENFORD.
AHYWAY, MISS LINA IS REALLY INTERESTED IN MEETING YOU IN PERSON
SO MUCH SO, SHE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO HER HOUSE
COULD YOU SPARE SOME OF YOUR TIME?
THIS SOME SORT OF CON? OR SOME KIND OF RELIGIOUS SOLICITATION?
あひん
IS THAT A GUN?!
I WILL DECLINE HER OFFER POLITELY
GET LOST, PET!
THAT'S SOME MOUTH YOU'VE GOT ON YOU!

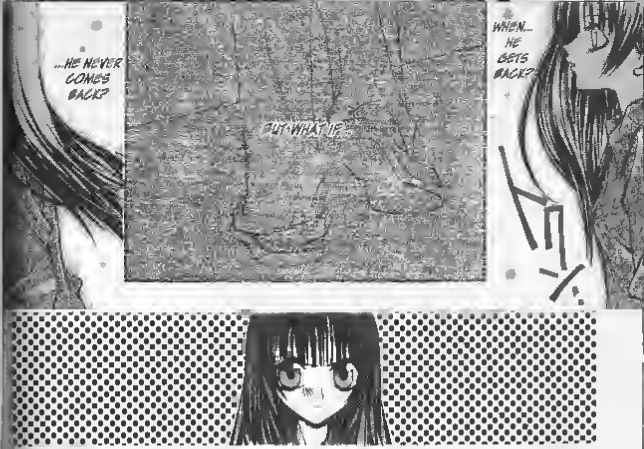
HOWEVER...
...WE ARE NOT CHILDREN. I CAN'T JUST MEEKLY BACK DOWN AFTER YOU TELL ME TO GET LOST.
DEPENDING ON YOUR ANSWER, WE MAY HAVE TO BE ROUGH ON YOU.
ARE YOU THREATENING ME?
I'M HERE ASKING YOU A FAVOR.
MISS LINA'S FATHER OPERATES AN IMPORT/EXPORT BUSINESS.
HE HAS MANY ACQUAINTANCES IN THE AREA
I ALREADY KNOW YOUR SKILL.
SO LET'S GO ABOUT THIS INTELLIGENTLY, SHALL WE?

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS, SILLY? YOU'RE MY BIRD!
WHAT'S THE POINT OF IT, ANYWAY?
YOU'RE NOT HAPPY WITH THIS SPECIAL BIRDCAGE?
YOU MEAN HE HAS SILVER HAIR AND RED EYES?
?
HE'S A RABBIT!
AND BOTH RABBITS AND BIRDS..
..ARE THE PREY OF HUNTERS.
WELL, HE'S WHITE AND RED.
WHO IS THIS POOR GIRL?
HOW DARE YOU SPEAK THAT WAY OF MISS LINA?!

PERMIT ME TO REPHRASE...
I AM SO SORRY TO HEAR YOUR PARTNER IS SICK RIGHT NOW
I'M SURE SHE'S IN NO CONDITION TO RUN
IT'S NOT A FAVOR. IT'S AN ORDER.
WHAT KIND OF HOSPITALITY IS THIS?

...ALTHOUGH HER REAL NAME IS LINA...
...SHE'S ALLOWING YOU TO CALL HER "LEENYA"--LIKE A CLOSE FRIEND WOULD.
WOULD SOMEONE PLEASE TRANSLATE...?
I SEE...
ANYWAY...I GOTTA USE THE RESTROOM.
EHHEH!
AREA YOU DONE TALKING TO HIM, AL-CHAN?
YOU CAN CALL ME LEENYA! LEENYA!
.....
HERE YOU GO!!
HE'S...
WHEN HER PET CRAYFISH P-CHAN DIED...
...SHE WAS SO SAD, I COULDN'T BEAR TO WATCH.
BUT NOW SHE'S IN SUCH A GOOD MOOD!
UH-HUH. SO WOULD YOU LIKE TO DIE IN LITTLE CHUNKS?
THEREFORE, YOU MUST BECOME MISS LINA'S PET!
THIS THE CAGE!
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH HER?
YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS.
BASICALLY, YOU'RE ASKING ME TO PLAY DOLLS WITH HER.
She seems perfectly fine to me now.
WELL, THIS IS ENTERTAINING...
I'M JUST ASKING YOU TO STAY HERE FOR HER UNTIL SHE HAS COMPLETELY RECOVERED HER SPIRITS.
I WILL PAY YOU FOR IT.
I DON'T THINK IT'S SUCH A BAD JOB.
It never crossed my mind...
...that I might not be loved.

ALZEID?
DID I SAY ANYTHING STRANGE IN MY SLEEP?
WHAT A HORRIBLE DREAM.
Was I talking to myself in this whole time?
HEY!
HE'S NOT EVEN HERE!
HE SAID HE'D BE BACK BY EVENING, BUT IT'S ALREADY NIGHTTIME
OOH! WHEN HE DOES GET BACK, I'M GONNA SO GIVE HIM A PIECE OF MY MIND!
CRAP!
I know there's no one who'll come to find me later.
"LET'S PLAY TAG."
"DON'T MOVE FROM THIS CIRCLE UNTIL I GIVE YOU THE OKAY, ALL RIGHT?"
I won't cry
I won't say, "Please don't go!"
"OKAY."
"I'LL BE WAITING!"
I definitely won't say anything of the sort!


...HE NEVER COMES BACK?
BUT WHAT IF...
WHEN... HE GETS BACK?

IT'S NO GOOD... I'M TOO WEAK-MINDED RIGHT NOW!
WHATEVER! I NEED TO SLEEP!

BUT I SLEPT TOO MUCH TO FALL SLEEP AGAIN
MISTAKE

IT'S NOT BECAUSE ANYONE ACTUALLY LIKES YOU
I'm so tired!
IT'S BECAUSE YOUR PARENTS ARE POWERFUL PEOPLE

HEY!

WHY WON'T YOU DO WHAT I SAY?!
EVERYONE ALWAYS LISTENS TO WHAT I SAY!

OPEN UP! AAAAHH!

.THERE'S A STARVING CHILD CRYING FOR ME
Like this
Baa! Baa! Baa!
THOUGH, MORE IMPORTANTLY—

THEREFORE, I'M GOING HOME, SINCE MY BLADDER IS ABOUT TO EXPLODE.

DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.

YOU HAD BETTER BE PREPARED FOR US.
I CANNOT GUARANTEE THE SECURITY OF YOUR PARTNER

WHAT?!
I'M NOT HER PROTECTOR
AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT HER?

APOLOGIZE TO MISS LINA!

IT'S WORSE THAN FUNNY.
I PITY YOU.

Lunet it's not soup
WHITE WINE..
ARE YOU HER KNIGHT OR SOMETHING?

YOU DON'T EVEN REALIZE YOU YOURSELF ARE KEPT IN A CAGE...
. BY BEING COODLED AND TOLD ONLY GOOD THINGS ABOUT YOURSELF

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, SICK GIRL?
PUDDING...

I'M WAITING FOR PUD-DING
PUDDING NEVER CAME BACK TO ME .. SO I DECIDED TO GO GET IT!
?

I'VE AVOIDED BEING CRUEL..
.. BECAUSE SHE'S STILL JUST A YOUNG GIRL.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU MULTIPLY ZERO, IT WILL ALWAYS BE ZERO.
THERE IS NOTHING ELSE IT CAN BECOME.
I HATE RELYING ON OTHERS. .AND BEING RELIED ON.
THE ONLY PEOPLE I'VE GOT A USE FOR, MAN OR WOMAN--
ARE THE ONES WHO CAN HOLD THEIR OWN

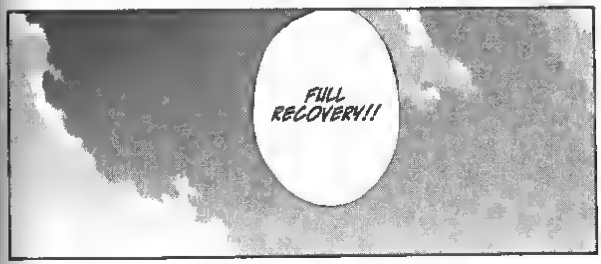
IT'S NOT WISE TO BE PICKING FIGHTS ALL THE TIME.
YOU SHOULD REALLY LEARN HOW TO LISTEN TO OTHERS SOME-TIMES.
I WANNA GO BACK TO THE HOTEL AND SLEEP--- ASAP!
YOU WALK TOO SLOW.
I CAN WALK! PUT ME DOWN!
PIPE DOWN. YOU ALMOST DIED, REMEM-BER?
Huh?
ALL I KNOW IS I'M GONNA HURL ON YOU IF I GET SICK FROM RIDING ON YOUR BACK
YOU BETTER NOT.
FUNNY...

I AM SORRY TO HAVE CAUSED YOU PROBLEMS FOR YOU.
NOW THAT MY MIND IS REFRESHED, I'LL TRY TO DO MY BEST!!
BUT...
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST!
YOU SLEPT THREE DAYS STRAIGHT AFTER THAT NIGHT.

THAT'S MY GIRL.
I'LL SQUASH YOUR HEAD LIKE A WATER-MELON!
IT'S CREEPY WHEN YOU'RE SO MODEST.

SHE HASN'T CHANGED A BIT. ITCHING FOR A FIGHT JUST LIKE ALWAYS.
SHUT UP! I'LL BEAT YOU UP IF YOU INTER-RUPT ME!
I'M GONNA FIGHT MORE THAN EVER!
EH HEH HEH HEH!

IT'S NOT AS BAD AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.
WHY DON'T YOU CARRY ME LIKE A PRINCESS?
SHOW ME THE RESPECT I DESERVE!
YOU KEEP COMPLAINING, I'LL DRAG YOU THE REST OF THE WAY


FULL RECOVERY!!

Chapter 4: Eternal Light—Part 1: Waiting for Spring

Hgaah!
?
Oh! They're selling roasted sweet potatoes!
ARE YOU COMING WITH ME OR NOT?!
I'VE ALREADY DECIDED TO MOVE OUT OF THAT HOUSE!
Y-YEAH, I'M COMING, BUT—

Hello, everyone! Rahzel here.
I PROMISE YOUR PAYMENT WILL BE MOST GENEROUS IF YOU CAN SOLVE THIS PROBLEM
IT'S A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR US TO HAVE GHOSTS
HAUNTING THE ENTRANCE TO OUR VILLAGE.
We're gonna do some ghost busting!
COME BACK AND FIGHT ME WHEN YOU GAIN MORE STRENGTH!
Frankly, this job is too easy for us
PLEASE LISTEN TO MY SIDE OF STORY
THERE'S A REASON I CAN'T LEAVE HERE
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I DEALT WITH NATURE
YOU ARE SO SARCASTIC!
WHAT ARE YOU GOOD AT?
CONFIDENT PHYSICAL STRENGTH!
TOO EASY, YOU SAID?
SHUT UP! SO I'M NOT EXACTLY A GHOSTBUSTING EXPERT!
YOU! JUST REST IN PEACE FOR THE SAKE OF PROTECTING MY PRIDE!
YOU'RE REALLY SELF-CENTERED, YOU KNOW THAT?!

BUT...
...WE WERE TORN APART BY AN IRONY OF FATE.
"LET'S RUN FAR, FAR AWAY FROM HERE TOGETHER!"
THAT'S WHAT HE TOLD ME ONE NIGHT.
E-L-O-P-E!
How come I said?
You're too rough
WHAT A SWEET AND BEAUTIFUL WORD!

THIS IS A SAD BUT BEAUTIFUL TALE...
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH HER? SHE ALREADY STARTED TALKING!
JUST PRETEND TO LISTEN
GHOSTS DON'T AGE AFTER THEY DIE!
I'm still nineteen years old!
OLD PEOPLE'S STORIES ARE USUALLY TOO LONG...
HE WAS THE SON OF THE RICHEST MAN IN THE VILLAGE...
YOU'RE NEXT, ALZEID.
TONIGHT'S DINNER!
I WAS JUST A POOR FARMGIRL...
WHAT YOU DO YOU WANT TO BET?
Bou Taoshi
ARE YOU GUYS LISTENING?
OF COURSE WE ARE!
YOU ARE SUCH A LIAR
OH NO! WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED?!
YES! IT WAS FORBIDDEN LOVE BETWEEN CLASSES!!

HUH? I DON'T...
I MEAN, YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HIM HERE ONCE --EVEN THOUGH IT'S BEEN TWENTY YEARS SINCE HE PROMISED TO MEET YOU.
BUT THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE I DIED!
EVEN IF THAT'S SO, HE SHOULD HAVE VISITED YOU HERE WITH SOME FLOWERS BY NOW.
SO...
..HOW LONG ARE YOU PLANNING TO WAIT FOR HIM HERE?
WHY NOT SHOW OFF YOUR SKILL AT CONNING STUPID WOMEN BY SAYING SOMETHING SWEET?!
CAN'T YOU TALK LIKE A NORMAL KID?
JUST DO IT BEFORE I SMASH YOU!
THE POINT IS-- PLEASE LET ME STAY HERE IN PEACE!

I HAVE TO WAIT FOR HIS ARRIVAL HERE.
I FELL DOWN AND DIED WHILE I WAS WAITING FOR HIM.
I hit my head
HOW STUPID.
THIS WOULD BE A GREAT PLACE FOR A JOKE... BUT I GOT NOTHING.
TOO BORING. REJECTED.
TOO QUICK TO THE PUNCH LINE. THIRTY-EIGHT POINTS
ARE YOU JUDGING MY STORY?!
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN HER STORY.
AND I DO?! DON'T BE SO COLD AND TAKE ONE FOR THE TEAM, ALREADY!
WHATEVER YOU SAY DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE, DOES IT? YOU CAN'T ELOPE NOW.
ALZEID, HELP ME OUT HERE.

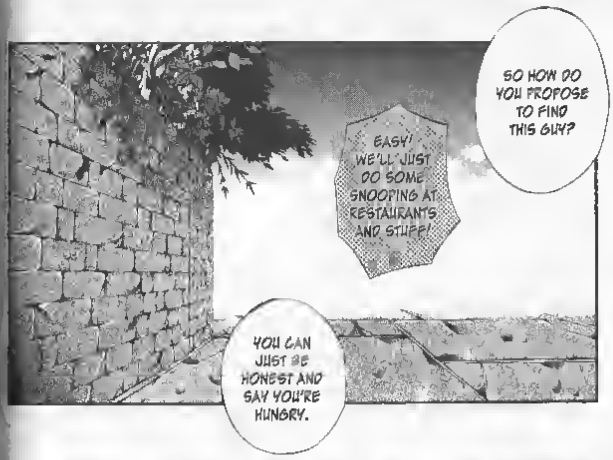
OH. SHE DISAPPEARED.
She escaped.
YOU'RE SO USELESS, ALZEID!
PLEASE DON'T INSULT HIM ANY-MORE!
AND. .PLEASE DON'T COME BACK HERE AGAIN...
NEXT TIME...
YOU ALREADY GOT SOME ADVANCE MONEY, RIGHT?
WHY DON'T WE JUST FORGET ABOUT THIS JOB?
NO WAY!!
The advance money wasn't enough!
...I WON'T BE SO EASY ON YOU.

DO YOU THINK THIS GUY'S REALLY WORTH WAITING FOR...-- EVEN AFTER YOUR DEATH?
NO MORE...
WHAT THE HELL?!
WHAT'S HER PROBLEM?! WE'RE TRYING TO TALK TO HER PEACEFULLY!
URGH!

"I DRAG SOME RICH GUY INTO AN ALLEY AND..."
"ALZEID, HOW DO YOU MAKE MONEY DURING YOUR TRIPS?"
THAT'S A CRIME!!
"STREET FIGHTING."
I'M OFFENDED BY YOUR EXTREME MANLY LIFESTYLE!
Huh?
WHAT? WHY ARE YOU SO AGAINST IT?
DADDY! I WANNA GO HOME, NOW!
YOU DEMAND TOO MUCH FROM OTHER PEOPLE.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I MAKE PRETTY GOOD MONEY BY PLAYING POKER, TOO.
I should, of course.
THAT'S NO GOOD, EITHER!
BUT...
...YOU ARE PART OF THE REASON I TOOK IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.
SO YOU OWE ME SOME HELP.
MEANING SHE WOULD'VE LEFT BY NOW IF SHE'D GOTTEN MORE MONEY.
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO HELP ME...
...SINCE I TOOK THIS JOB BY MYSELF.
SPIDERWEBS
"I DIDN'T KNOW IT COST SO MUCH TO TRAVEL AROUND."

HEY!
I WAS HARMED BY HER
YOU PROVOKED HER
WHAT AM I GONNA DO? THE PROBLEM DOESN'T SEEM THAT BAD
AND I DON'T WANT TO ELIMINATE HER JUST LIKE THAT
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS IDEA?
WE FIND HER LOVER AND BRING HIM TO HER!
I'm sorry
ONCE SHE MEETS HIM, SHE'LL HAVE NO REASON TO STICK AROUND!
I CALL IT, "OPERATION LOVE MESSENGER"!
WHAT A GREAT IDEA!

AFTER ALL, SHE'S JUST WAITING THERE FOR HER LOVER.
YEAH?
Y'KNOW, THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THAT GHOST WOMAN
SHE'S NOT TRYING TO HARM ANYONE.
SO WHAT'S THE POINT OF TRYING TO GET RID OF HER?


SO HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO FIND THIS GUY?
EASY! WE'LL JUST DO SOME SNOOPING AT RESTAURANTS AND STUFF!
YOU CAN JUST BE HONEST AND SAY YOU'RE HUNGRY.

MASTER. YOU HAVE VISITORS.
SEND THEM IN.

He reluctantly came with her
AND WHO IS THIS MAN?
I DON'T WANT ANY-ONE ELSE INVOLVED.
WHAT IS IT?
I ASSUME YOU DIDN'T FINISH THE JOB

IS THE GHOST THE SPIRIT OF YOUR FORMER LOVER NORMA?
ANYWAY, MR. ROOLY... IS IT TRUE?
THINK OF ME AS AIR
Oh my God
PLEASE DON'T MIND HIM, EVEN THOUGH HE'S SUCH ARROGANT AIR.

IT SEEMS YOU'RE A GLIB TALKER.
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD STUDY LAW?
HAH
I COULDN'T ABANDON THAT RESPONSIBILITY JUST FOR A GIRL!
I ALREADY HAD A LIFELONG CALLING TO TAKE OVER THE FAMILY BUSINESS AND ENHANCE IT TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY.
WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN NORMA AND ME IS JUST A MEMORY.
THAT SOUNDS MUCH SIMPLER! ♡
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT YOU WERE OKAY WITH SWEET-TALKING AN INNOCENT GIRL TO FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU.
AND THE MINUTE YOU REALIZED YOUR MONETARY FUTURE WAS MORE IMPORTANT, YOU SIMPLY THREW HER AWAY.
AL DOESN'T SPEAK!!

YOUR MAIDS, BUTLERS... EVEN CHEFS...
...THEY ALL SEEM TO HAVE PLENTY OF TIME...
...TO TELL ME EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU
WHO TOLD YOU THAT?!
OH, THE VILLAGERS... AND YOUR SERVANTS IN THE MANSION.
IF I'M GOING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM SMOOTHLY, THEN I NEED TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT IT
I'M SURE YOU WOULD ALSO BE HAPPY TO SEE A RAPID RESOLUTION.
WHY ARE YOU SNOOPING AROUND ANYWAY?
IS BEING A DETECTIVE ALSO PART OF YOUR JOB?
IF YOU DON'T WANT ME SNOOPING AROUND, THEN
HIDE ANYTHING FROM ME

I'LL GIVE YOU YOUR MONEY'S WORTH
AFTER ALL, IT IS BUSINESS. RIGHT?
WE'LL SOLVE THE PROBLEM WITH HER WITHOUT YOUR BEGGING
I WON'T GOSSIP EITHER.. UNLIKE YOUR FAITHFUL SERVANTS.
...THAT MAKES YOU UNABLE TO FACE HER?
OR...
DO YOU STILL FEEL SOME GUILT ABOUT HER
WHY DON'T YOU GO TALK TO HER?
YOU SHOULD SIMPLY NEGOTIATE WITH HER IN PERSON.
SHUT UP!!
ARE YOU SCARED OF HER?
I HIRED YOU!
YOU JUST HAVE TO DO WHAT I SAY!

...I'D KILL HIM.
I HAVE NO IDEA.
BUT IF IT WERE ME—
I WONDER WHAT THAT GHOST WOMAN WOULD DO IF SHE FOUND OUT THE TRUTH ABOUT HIM.
I WOULD MAKE HIM REGRET WHAT HE DID UNTIL HE STOPPED BREATHING!
I WOULD GIVE HIM PAIN IN ANY WAY I COULD THINK OF.
NOTHING WOULD STOP ME—
EVEN IF HE BEGGED FOR HIS LIFE...

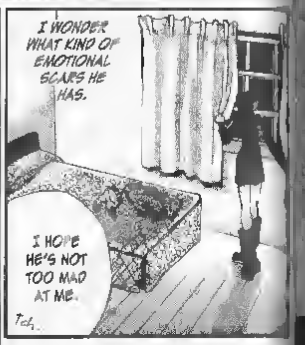
IN FACT, I WAS HOPING HE WOULD FIRE ME.
THEN I COULD'VE GOTTEN SEVERANCE PAY, TOO.
AND THEN YOU COULD'VE BEATEN HIM UP?
THAT'S RIGHT!
I COULD TELL YOU WOULD'VE WORKED HIM OVER IF YOU WEREN'T GETTING PAID.
OF COURSE!
もき
I HOPE HE ROTS TO DEATH AFTER LOSING EVERYTHING HE HAS...
...AND THEN HE COULD GO LIVE IN A SMALL TENT WITH JUST ONE CANDLE!
SO DESCRIPTIVE—
I CAN'T STAND RICH PIGS LIKE THAT GUY!

IT'S MY FAULT.
I TOTALLY FORGOT ALZEID'S LIVING TO AVENGE HIS FATHER.

NO...

HAVE YOU BEEN DE-SERTED BY SOMEONE...
...WHO YOU TRUSTED MOST?
RAHZEL..
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN BETRAYED BY SOMEONE BEFORE?

WHAT KIND OF PAIN IS HE IN?
OH, MAN...
WHAT KIND OF SADNESS IS HE HOLDING INSIDE?
I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT NORMA, TOO.
(What am I going to do?)


I WONDER WHAT KIND OF EMOTIONAL SCARS HE HAS.
I HOPE HE'S NOT TOO MAD AT ME.
Tch..

THEN DON'T EVER SAY THINGS LIKE THAT SO CASUALLY...
IT MAKES ME SICK.

Chapter 5: Eternal Light–Part 2:
Passive-Aggressive
I WISH MORNING DIDN'T COME SO QUICKLY.

AS USUAL, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IS ON HIS MIND.
YES! I WAS COMPLETELY, TOTALLY TALKING TO MYSELF!
WERE YOU TALKING TO YOURSELF?
DO YOU HAVE TO RESPOND WHEN I'M TALKING TO MYSELF?

...SINCE HE LEFT ME LIKE THAT LAST NIGHT.
WHAT A COLD FACE HE HAS!
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO BEHAVE AROUND HIM.

AHHH! I'M SO DARN UNCOMFORTABLE RIGHT NOW!
Now Now Now
?

HEY, ALZEID?

IS THAT SO?

I'M IN A BAD MOOD.

WHY DON'T YOU GO GET SOMETHING TO EAT?

I AM SO HUNGRY.

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT A SLAVE?

IN THIS SITUATION, I WISH I HAD A PARTNER...
...WHO WOULD PREPARE A GREAT MEAL FOR ME...
...AND MASSAGE MY SHOULDERS WITHOUT SPEAKING.

PUSHING THE LIMIT OF MY STRENGTHS?
THEN, JUST LIVE BY YOUR STRENGTH!
AH!
THERE ARE MANY PROBLEMS THAT WE CAN'T FIND SOLUTIONS TO--EVEN IF WE ARE WORRIED ABOUT THEM.
YOU SHOULD JUST DO YOUR BEST WITH WHAT YOU CAN.
WHY'D YOU DO THAT?!
WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECT?

JUST KNOW THAT WHATEVER YOU DECIDE TO DO HERE, YOU'LL DO ALONE.
I'll just be watching you.
I'M SURE YOU WILL!
ALZEID...
IT'S JUST LIKE THE OLD PROVERB SAYS--"THINKING LIKE A FOOL IS JUST LIKE RESTING."
WHAT THE...

ARE YOU SICK AGAIN?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY AGAIN?
WHY ARE YOU TOUCHING MY FORE-HEAD?
.....
WHAT FEELINGS LAST...
...EVEN AFTER PEOPLE DIE?

I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.
I JUST WONDER IF THERE'S ANYTHING I'D CARE ABOUT...
.. AFTER I DIE...

WHY ARE YOU LYING TO ME?
BUT I HAD TO TELL YOU THAT...
THE PERSON YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR WON'T COME... OR CAN'T COME...
YEAH... THAT'S RIGHT! BECAUSE HE HAS ALREADY PASSED ON!
.....
YOU KNEW THE WHOLE STORY FROM THE VERY BEGINNING?
I ALREADY WARNED YOU...
...THAT I WOULDN'T LET YOU OFF SO EASILY THE NEXT TIME!

HEL-LOOO!
GHOST LADY! COME OUT AND PLAY!
WELL, THEN..
TIME I GOT STARTED.
.....
THERE'S NO NEED TO SHOUT! I CAN HEAR YOU JUST FINE.
AND I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME HERE ANYMORE.

I'M MERELY WAITING!!
AM I NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE MY DREAMS?!
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE TO YOU?!
WHY DON'T YOU USE THAT POWER TO DO SOMETHING POSITIVE..
—LIKE KICKING THAT OLD BASTARD'S ASS?!
SO, YOU CAN DO SOMETHING ELSE BESIDES SOBBING AND WAITING?!
VOOM!
THAT'S AN OOO USE OF THE WORD POSITIVE..
Dammit!
IF YOU'RE GONNA JUST WATCH, THEN SHUT UP!
BACK AT YA

JUST SOME GUY, YOU SAY?!
I MEAN, HE'S JUST SOME GUY! HE'S NOT WORTH WEEPING OVER!
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?!
CRUSH

ARE YOU STUPID?

NEITHER OF US KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT THE OTHER.
WE'RE JUST TOGETHER
WHY, WE HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON AT ALL!
Ah, this is what a laugh!
YOUR MISUNDERSTANDING IS SWEET, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT CAME FROM.
THERE'S NO KIND OF PROMISE BETWEEN ALZEID AND ME.

YOU'RE RIGHT. HE'S JUST A MAN.
BUT...
...YOU WOULD KILL HIM IF HE BETRAYED YOU, RIGHT?
WHA--?

ARE YOU MAD AT ME BECAUSE I WATCHED YOUR FIGHT FOR FREE?
SHUT UP!

SO BE-FORE THAT HAPPENS...
...PERHAPS I SHOULD KILL HIM RIGHT HERE.

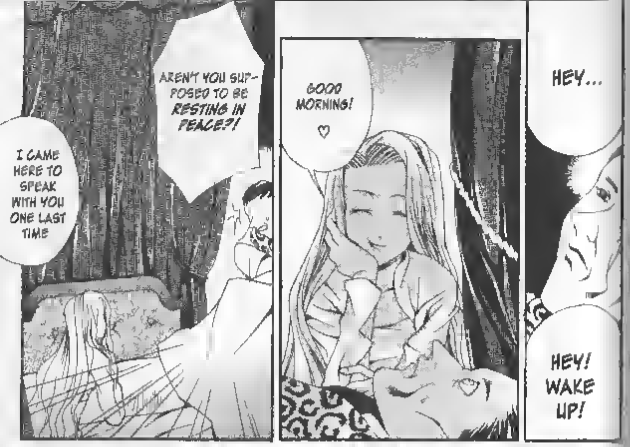
YOU WERE LISTENING IN ON OUR CONVERSA-TION?!
YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN HE'LL BETRAY YOU.
THIS GUY IS JUST A MAN, JUST LIKE MY MAN.

YOU ARE RIGHT. I SAID I'D KILL ANYONE WHO BETRAYED ME.

BUT THAT'S FOR ME TO DECIDE.

I DON'T NEED ANYONE ELSE'S HELP.

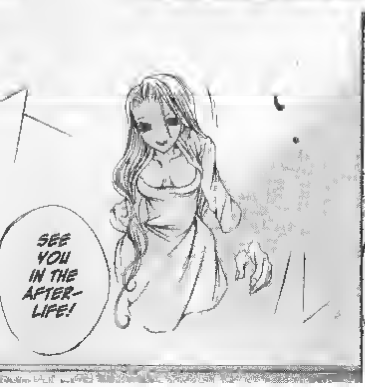
TOMORROW MAY SEE US WALKING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PATHS.
ALL WE'VE GOT IS THE HERE AND NOW.
AND THAT WOULDN'T BE ANY KIND OF BETRAYAL.
WE HAVE NOTHING THAT COULD BE CALLED A CERTAINTY.


I CAME HERE TO SPEAK WITH YOU ONE LAST TIME
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE RESTING IN PEACE?!
GOOD MORNING! ♡
HEY...
HEY! WAKE UP!

IT'S NOT MY HOBBY TO PICK ON THE WEAK.
I LIKE TO HANDLE THINGS IN MY OWN WAY.

JUST KIDDING!

...WHEN WE'RE BOTH GOING TO THE SAME PLACE.
THOUGH I GUESS I SHOULDN'T USE THE WORD "LAST"...


SEE YOU IN THE AFTER-LIFE!

I'VE PLANTED A NUMBER OF EXPLOSIVES AROUND THE HOUSE.
THE ENTIRE BUILDING WILL BE NOTHING MORE THAN A PILE OF RUBBLE IN A FEW MOMENTS.

LET'S
LET'S DO SOMETHING CRAZY!

ATTENTION
Countdown Start!
WAAAAAAA!!
H-HELP!! SOMEBODY! GET THIS DOOR OPEN!!
NORMA!
H-HURRY! WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT!
WHAT THE HELL?!
DAMN! IT'S LOCKED FROM THE OUTSIDE!
?!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MASTER?

BOOM!

HEY, RAHZEL...
I KNOW I'LL FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE WHEN I'M REBORN.
BUT WHAT IF YOU GET A CRAP LIFE AGAIN?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT...
. I HOPE IT'S SOMEWHERE WARM.
IT'S... BEAUTIFUL...
Oh my god.
Plip! Drip!
BWA HA HA HA HA!
THAT OLD MAN MUST BE PEEING ON HIS PANTS RIGHT NOW!
YOU'VE GOT SUCH A WEAK PERSONALITY
EVEN IF THAT'S SO, I CAN'T REALLY CHANGE THE WAY I AM.
I WONDER IF THE PLACE I'M HEADED NEXT... ...IS FULL OF LIGHT LIKE THIS
IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL...
...THAT IT HURTS

YOU COULD HAVE AT LEAST LEFT ME SOME AFTERGLOW, Y'KNOW!!
SHE'S GONE...
WE SPENT ALL THE MONEY, DIDN'T WE?
I DIDN'T KNOW FIREWORKS WERE SO EXPENSIVE...
ONLY YOU COULD COME UP WITH A SOLUTION LIKE THAT...
ALZEID?

YEAH...I DID WELL, DIDN'T I?
IDIOT.
.....
IS IT A PROMISE YOU WANT?

Chapter 6: Nowhere to Go~
Part I: Idleness is the Devil's Workshop

JUST PROMISE ME ONE THING...
PROMISE ME WE'LL BE HAPPY AND WELL, TOMORROW AND THE DAY AFTER
—AND THE DAY AFTER THAT, AND THE NEXT...
WHAT KIND OF PROMISE IS THAT?

YOU KNOW, I LIKE THIS TOWN, SINCE THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE HERE
WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT A LOT OF PEOPLE?
THE MORE PEOPLE, THE GREATER THE DANGER.
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU GO LOOKING FOR TROUBLE OR IT'S JUST DRAWN TO YOU
—BUT I DON'T WANT TO GET MIXED UP IN ANYTHING HERE, 'KAY?
GOT IT? I'M TALKING CONSOLATION MONEY.
BUT--I'LL FORGIVE YOU IF YOU GIVE ME THIS IN LIEU OF MONEY..
NO! NOT THAT!

ぴぃ
ROGER!
SO YOU BETTER NOT LEAVE MY SIDE, OKAY?
I WON'T LOOK FOR YOU IF YOU GET LOST.
HOW OLD ARE YOU AGAIN?
WE MUST OBEY OUR HUNGER!
Y'MEAN ABOUT ROASTED CHESTNUTS? THEY'RE SOOO GOOD!
WERE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO WHAT I JUST SAID?
HEY...!
OH! THEY'VE GOT ROASTED CHESTNUTS FOR SALE!

YOU ALWAYS TEND TO GET...
SOMETIMES YOU NEED TO LEARN TO THINK THINGS THROUGH FOR YOURSELF
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
.....

IF YOU WANT IT BACK SO BADLY, THEN COME TRY AND GET IT!
HI THERE! THIS IS YOURS, RIGHT?
YOU CAN HAVE IT BACK IF YOU KEEP QUIET ABOUT ME USING A DUMB PHRASE LIKE "IN YOUR FACE"
HEY! WHAT D'YOU THINK YOU'RE DOIN'? I'M NOT JUST GONNA TAKE THAT LYING DOWN!
HEY! JUST BECAUSE YOUR FACE GOT UP-CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH MY FOOT IS NO REASON FOR YOU TO YELL AT ME!
GAH! NOT THE FACE AGAIN!!
You are so overreactive!
JUMP FOR IT, IF YOU CAN!
GAAAH!!
IN YOUR FACE!

!!
YOU LITTLE BITCH!
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO FIGHT WITH BARE HANDS!
Ow!
Hey!
...PUNISH YOU!
BUT ..IF YOU INSIST ON PLAYING ROUGH...
.. THEN I'LL BE FORCED TO...
SURELY YOU DON'T WANT TO BE EMBARRASSED BY A LITTLE GIRL LIKE ME ..
..SO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS LIMITED-TIME OFFER TO LEAVE PEACEFULLY
OR STAY AND GET YOUR BUTT KICKED YOUR CALL.
I'M GONNA BRING YOU TO YOUR KNEES!!
WHY, YOU LITTLE...!
GOT IT?!
YOU HAD YOUR WARNING!

WHERE ARE YOUR PARENTS? ARE YOU LOST?
I'M NOT WITH THEM RIGHT NOW.
I'M ON THE WAY TO OBPLAY WITH MY BROTHERS.
OH--SO YOU'RE ON A TRIP JUST LIKE ME, THEN

I CAN SHOW YOU SOME MORE IF YOU LIKE.
LOOK-- WATER TRICKS.

Ooh Wow
Scary
WHOA! YOUR EYES ARE FREAKIN' ME OUT!

?
NOW I'VE GOT TO CATCH UP WITH ALZEID.
Stare
I GUESS HE WAS RIGHT. THIS ISN'T A SAFE PLACE.
THOUGH I DID MANAGE TO ENJOY MYSELF

THAT WAS SO COOL! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I'VE SEEN MAGICAL POWER!
I-I'M... HAPPY FOR YOU

UMM...
MAY I HELP YOU?

I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU, KID!
HEY...!

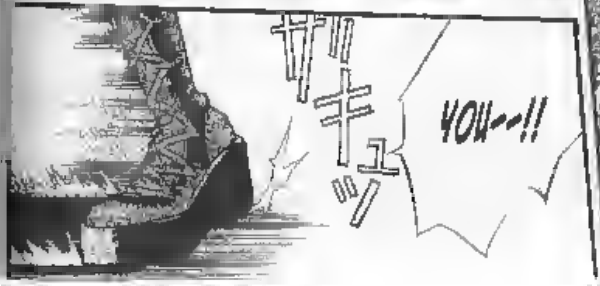
SIGH—I WISH YOU WOULDN'T FLIRT WITH EVERY GIRL YOU SEE, BAROQUE-HEAT!
TELL YA WHAT...TO MAKE UP FOR IT, I'D LIKE TO TAKE YOU TO DINNER.
I'M SORRY IF HE CAUSED YOU ANY TROUBLE
NO, HE WAS PERFECTLY FINE.

YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT FOR BAD GUYS LIKE THAT.
THAT RING'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT, ISN'T IT?
UNLESS I HAVE THIS...
...I WON'T BE RECOGNIZED.

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S MOST IMPORTANT...
...FOR YOU TO KNOW WHO YOU ARE?

?!
OH!
YOU PROBABLY DON'T HAVE ANY BOND WITH THAT PERSON.
...IF YOU NEED PROOF LIKE THAT TO CONTINUE THE RELATIONSHIP
Probably
BECAUSE EVERYONE IS A STRANGER WHEN YOU FIRST MEET THEM

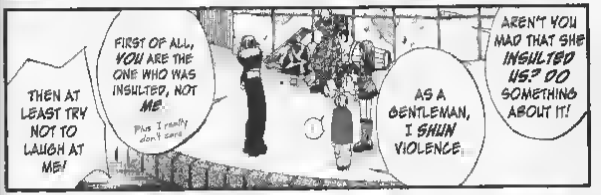
Male sea horses raise the children
What role models, huh?



HOWEVER...
...YOU'RE NOT MY TYPE!
SO I'M GOING TO SLICE YOUR PRETTY FACE TO RIBBONS!
WOW! THANKS FOR SAYING I'M PRETTY!
YOU'RE PRETTY HANDSOME YOURSELF!

...!O!O!!
YOU...

YOU'RE LOWER THAN SEAFOOD, SORESTA!
Ah ha ha!
YOU SURE SEEM TO BE ENJOYING THIS!


AREN'T YOU MAD THAT SHE INSULTED US? DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
AS A GENTLEMAN, I SHUN VIOLENCE.
FIRST OF ALL, YOU ARE THE ONE WHO WAS INSULTED, NOT ME.
Plus I really don't care.
THEN AT LEAST TRY NOT TO LAUGH AT ME!

...UNLIKE HIM, I AM NOT GENEROUS ENOUGH TO LAUGH AND FORGIVE YOU...
...AFTER BEING HUMILIATED SO!

ALL RIGHT ALL RIGHT

Bwaaaah, ha ha
ANYWAY...
BUT I JUST CAN'T HELP IT!

WHEN DID WE BECOME FRIENDS?
I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU!
I NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE OUR OLD FRIEND IN A TOWN LIKE THIS!
SO...HAVE YOU FOUND YOUR FATHER'S ENEMY YET?
STILL AS COLD AS FROST, HUH, LITTLE BOY AL?
Such a shame
You're not cute at all
.....
STOP CALLING ME "LITTLE BOY"!

SORESTA, BAROQUE-HEAT.
LONG TIME NO SEE.
BAROQUE
BHN?! YOU KNOW THEM?!

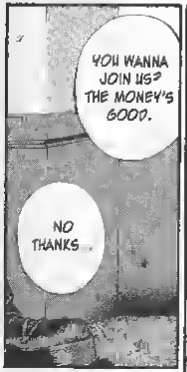
ALZEID!

I'M SORRY THAT MY FRIEND CAUSED YOU TROUBLE.
Why am I the bad guy here?!
Hey!?

SHE AND I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF RELATION-SHIP.
SO DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME

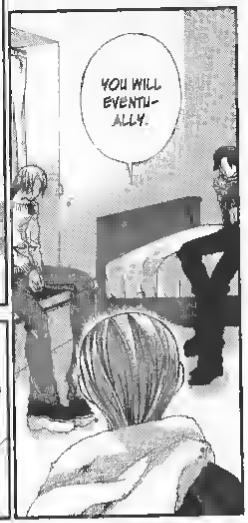
SHE FACKS A LOT INTO THAT SMALL PACKAGE!
ENOUGH WITH THE SICK OLD MAN PORN JOKES.

DON'T GET ME WRONG... I LOVE SEX--BUT HATE KIDS
YOU KIDDING ME?
WHEN DID YOU BE-COME A DAD, BAROQUE-HEAT?
BESIDES THAT... WHO'S THE KID?


YOU WANNA JOIN US? THE MONEY'S GOOD.
NO THANKS.

HE'S AN IL-LEGITIMATE CHILD
IT'S OUR JOB TO TAKE HIM BACK TO HIS PARENTS.
VINCENT IS A RICH KID

BUT FOR NOW, LET'S JUST BE HAPPY...
...THAT WE'VE FINALLY BEEN REUNITED!

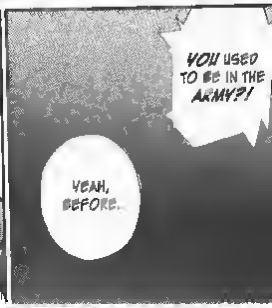

YOU WILL EVENTU-ALLY.

YOU MEAN RAHZEL?
BY THE WAY... WHO'S THE GIRL?

SORRY!
YOU'RE A DEAD MAN.

RAHZEL, IS IT?
NOW I SEE WHY YOU NEVER HAD ANY GIRLFRIENDS EVER!

I HAD NO IDEA YOU HAD A LOLITA COMPLEX!



I'M BACK!
THOSE SURE ARE A LOT OF BAGS.
DON'T TELL ME YOU BOUGHT CLOTHES AGAIN.
I bought things for us
HOW DARE YOU ATTACK ME LIKE THAT WHEN YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SENT ME OUT SHOPPING?!
I NEVER INTRODUCED YOU TO THEM. THIS IS SORESTA AND BAROQUENEAT
Hi
Hello
I KNEW THEM WHEN I WAS IN THE ARMY.
NICE TO MEET YOU...
HUH?!
THE ARMY?!
Can we eat now?
YOU USED TO BE IN THE ARMY?!
YEAH, BEFORE.
THIS LITTLE ONE IS RAHZEL.
What?!
SHE IS...
...MY PARTNER.

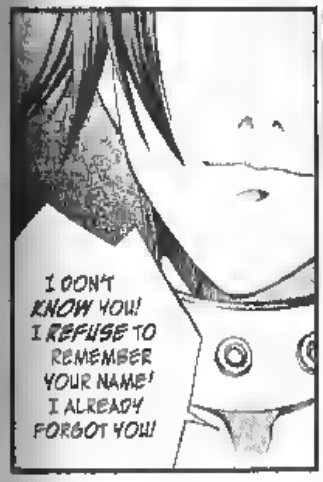
PARTNER?
I SEE..
?
WELL, I CAN CERTAINLY SEE THE POTENTIAL, HERE
Grr
SHE'LL BE ONE HOT BABE IN THE NEAR FUTURE
HUH?
DON'T COME NEAR ME! YOU STINK LIKE CIGARETTES!
Where's an ash-tray?
......
He wants something in his mouth
YOU A VIRGIN?
YEAH, I AM!
What of it?!
So cute.
STOP BAITING HER.
AND YOU STOP RISING TO HIS BAIT.

YOU'RE SO COLD!

THEN I'LL ASK HER!
HEY, RAHZEL... WANNA BE MY GIRL?
NO WAY!
DON'T BE SO FRIENDLY, PERVERT!

AL, AL LITTLE BOY...
IF YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN TOUCHING HER THEN WHY NOT GIVE HER TO ME?
DON'T ASK ME.

YOU SEE, FLOWERS HAVE A STAMEN AND A PISTIL...
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE HELPING...
WHAT'S A VIRGIN?
ALZEID! THIS BASTARD IS YOUR FRIEND, ISN'T HE?! DO SOMETHING!!


I DON'T KNOW YOU! I REFUSE TO REMEMBER YOUR NAME! I ALREADY FORGOT YOU!

DON'T CALL ME "BASTARD" LIKE YOU DON'T LIKE ME!
CALL ME BAROQUE-HEAT!

Chapter 7: Nowhere to Go~Part 2: Gamble

But yet she still accepts the gift (Greedy!)

SO... IS "JACKASS" OKAY FOR YOUR TOMB-STONE?
THOUGH, I MUST CONFESS NOW THAT WE CHEATED
EXCUSE ME!
WHAT A WASTE...
← Has outta here!
MORON! DON'T BRING OUT SOMETHING STUPID LIKE THIS!
...DON'T USE YOUR MAGICAL POWER FOR A WHILE.
BY THE WAY, RAHZEL...
Huh?

THERE'S ANOTHER ONE IN HERE...
I CAN'T BELIEVE ALZEID USED TO LOOK SO CUTE
I THINK HE WAS YOUR AGE IN THAT PHOTO
Hey, girl! Gimme more cake!
EVEN BACK THEN, HE WASN'T A CUTE KID AT ALL. SO WE MADE FUN OF HIM
WE PLAYED POKER. AND THE LOSER HAD TO DRESS LIKE A GIRL AND SERVE TABLES
Does touching cost extra?
And what's with the flowers?!
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? IT'S PROOF OF ALZEID'S EMBARRASSING PAST

ぽ

?!
SO DID YOU MEAN TO OPEN YOURSELF UP LIKE THAT?

YOU CAN HANDLE THAT, RIGHT?
JUST TRY TO KEEP THE PROMISE FOR THREE DAYS

I TAKE YOUR SILENCE AS A NO
HE'S RIGHT!
ぱぱぱ
I WAS CAUGHT COMPLETELY OFF-GUARD!

I HAVE MY OWN REASONS
So don't worry!
WHERE DO YOU GET OFF GIVING ME AN ORDER LIKE THAT?!
HAVE YOU NO FEELINGS?!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO!
I WON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE TWICE!
.....
BAROQUEHEAT TEASES YOU BECAUSE YOU RELY SO MUCH ON YOUR MAGIC

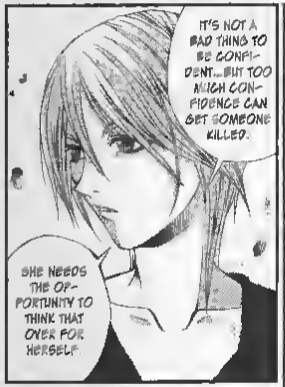
REALLY?

AW, HE JUST CAUGHT ME OFF-GUARD, IS ALL ...
SO THAT'S WHY YOU FAILED MISERABLY TO PROTECT YOURSELF?

HOW LONG WILL YOU BE HIDING THERE?
BEEP!
SO ..
WHATEVER, MAID-BOY!!
DON'T OPEN UP OLD WOUNDS...
HE'S EVEN MORE ARROGANT THAN I THOUGHT!
DAMMIT!
IS ALZEID STILL IN HIS ROOM?
MORNING, SORESTA.
GOOD MORNING.
Wa! I'm close to pissed off than irritated
URRGH! I'M SO IRRITATED!

CHECK!
BECAUSE IF YOU CAN'T, I'LL QUIT BEING YOUR PARTNER.
WHAT THE HELL?! THAT'S JUST... SELFISH!
ONE WEEK.
ARE YOU ADMITTING YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT YOUR POWER?
THREE DAYS WILL BE TOO EASY. I'LL ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE FOR ONE WEEK.
IT'S NOT THAT HARD. I'LL LAST A WEEK, EASY!
YOU JUST WATCH!

ALZEIO "SENSEI"?
DON'T YOU THINK IT WAS UNNECESSARILY HARSH TO SAY THOSE THINGS TO HER?


IT'S NOT A BAD THING TO BE CONFIDENT... BUT TOO MUCH CONFIDENCE CAN GET SOMEONE KILLED.
SHE NEEDS THE OPPORTUNITY TO THINK THAT OVER FOR HERSELF.

RAHZEL ALREADY SEEMS TO BE PRETTY STRONG PHYSICALLY.
I ALREADY KNOW THAT
HUH?

IS THAT ALL?

HUH?!
What brought that on?!
WHAT? OH, YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW ALZEIO AND I GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER?

I THINK HE'S STILL IN MY ROOM

I NEVER IMAGINED THAT JUST A FEW YEARS LATER, I WOULD RUN INTO HIM BAREFOOT IN THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS...
HE LOOKED SO WONDERFUL IN HIS WHITE TIGHTS AND RED CLOAK. THE NAME OF THE HORSE WAS ROSINANTE. EVERYTHING WAS IDEAL.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
ALZEIO WAS A KNIGHT ON A WHITE HORSE WHO RESCUED ME WHEN I GOT ATTACKED BY A DOG ON MY WAY HOME.
IT WAS WHEN I WAS STILL A PURE, ADORABLE LITTLE BOY.

I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU THE STORY, "HORROR AT THE BIG GYM FESTIVAL WITH MANY, MANY CALVES", YET!
SOMEBODY HELP ME!

I HAVE THINGS TO DO...
HOLD ON!

THAT'S RIGHT! YOUR GUARDIANS SHOULD TEACH YOU!
LIKE SORESTA OR BAROQUE-HEAT!
HUH? NO?!
AH! THEN CAN YOU TEACH ME HOW TO FIGHT?!
I HAVE SOMEONE I WANT TO BEAT UP!
HOW TO FIGHT..?
—AREN'T YOU EMBARRASSED TO LEARN FROM A GIRL?
S-SURE, BUT—
I KNOW THEY'RE BOTH REALLY STRONG.
IF I ASK THEM, THEY MIGHT TEACH ME HOW TO FIGHT
BUT..
—THEY'RE PRETTY SCARY—
SCARY?

YOUTH IS THE SPRINGTIME OF LIFE, Y'KNOW!
Yeah.
.....
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT IN THE HEAD?
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?
JUST THINK ABOUT IT, YOUNG MAN!
EHHH?!
THEN YOU CAN'T SHOW ME YOUR MAGICAL POWER ANYMORE?!
COME TO THINK OF IT, HE PROVOKED ME SO I DID JUST WHAT HE WANTED...
THAT JUST SUCKS!
あーっ

FOR THE OLDEST TRICK IN THE BOOK!
PSYCH! YOU DOPES FELL...
LITTLE BITCH!
I TOLD YOU TO BE QUIET!
?!

YOU'RE COMING WITH US
I'D PREFER TO GO BACK TO MY HOTEL, SINCE THE SUN'S GOING DOWN.
KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT!
ANY PARTICULAR REASON YOU'VE BROUGHT US TO THIS DARK ALLEY?
HOLD ON! I HAVE TO TIE MY SHOE—
HEY! DON'T MOVE!

WELL, RAHZEL CAN'T USE HER MAGICAL POWER, RIGHT?
SO WHO'S RESPONSIBLE IF SHE GETS IN TROUBLE NOW?

HEY DUDE...
...WANNA GO EAT WITH US?
RAHZEL ISN'T BACK YET.

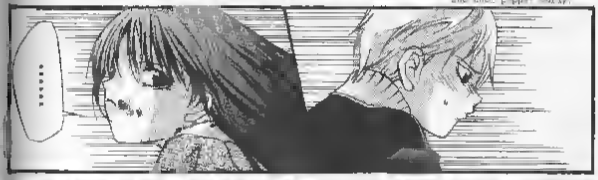
TSK

VINCENT MUST BE WITH HER.
SO PLEASE TAKE CARE OF HIM...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, TAKE CARE OF HIM?

.....
WELL, WE'RE OFF TO EAT. SEE YA!

WHO THE HELL ARE THEY?!
I DON'T THINK THEY'RE RELATED TO THOSE PUNK KIDS FROM YESTERDAY!

UGH... UNH...
RUN!!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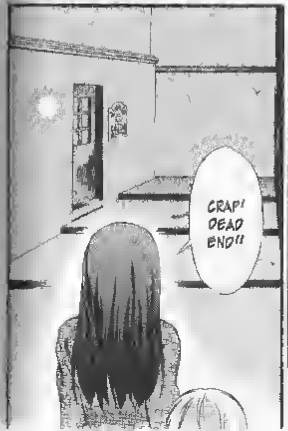
CRAP! DEAD END!!

WELL, WE CAN FIGURE THAT OUT LATER...!
FOR NOW, JUST RUN AS FAST AS WE CAN...

CAN YOU TRUST ME?
YEAH.

NOW FOR TODAY'S FUN TECHNOLOGY LESSON!
OKAY! THEN GATHER ALL THE POWDERED THINGS FROM THE SHELVES!
STUFF LIKE FLOUR, SUGAR AND COCOA!
GOT IT!
THE DOOR'S LOCKED!
BREAK IT DOWN!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH IT?

THANK GOD THE LOCK WAS EASY TO PICK.
LET'S HURRY OUT THE BACK DOOR!

THEN WE NEED TO HURRY!
IT'S ALSO TRUE THAT WE PROBABLY CAN'T OUTRUN THEM.
HEY, VEE?

WHY'RE YOU LOOKING FOR FOOD RIGHT NOW?
OH! I FOUND A GOOD WINE!

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN WIN WITHOUT MAGIC...
THEY'VE PROBABLY HAD PROPER FIGHTING TRAINING.
THERE ARE THREE ENEMIES WITH GUNS.

オオオオオオ

I'M SURE THEY'RE HIDING IN HERE SOMEWHERE...!
THIS IS A DEAD-END STREET! THERE'S NOWHERE FOR THEM TO GO!

click
DO THEY EVER CLEAN THIS DUMP?!
COUGH! IT'S SO DUSTY IN HERE!

GOTCHA!!

I KNOW IT'S A CONVENIENT POWER
I'D BE LYING IF I SAID I DON'T RELY ON IT...
NO...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE MY FRIEND!
BUT EVEN IF I DIDN'T HAVE THE POWER...
I'D KNOW THAT I CAN DO ANYTHING
...AND I CAN GO ANYWHERE
BECAUSE...
HEY...

WHEN FINE PARTICLES OF A FLAMMABLE SUBSTANCE FILL THE AIR...
AND A SPARK OCCURS, IT CAUSES A FLASH FIRE CHAIN REACTION
IN SHORT, THINGS GO BOOM.
WHAT HAPPENED?
EVER HEAR OF A DUST EXPLOSION?
?
WHY DID YOU TRUST ME?
IS IT BECAUSE I CAN USE MAGIC?
YEE...
HEY...! SURELY YOU CAN USE YOUR MAGIC IN A CASE LIKE THAT!
MAYBE SOMETHING FELL ON IT...
I GUESS I UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT— I CAN'T GET THIS COVER OPEN
RAHZEL...
IF THE FLOOR STARTS BURNING, WE'LL BE ROASTED LIKE TURKEYS!

WHAT IN THE WORLD HAP-PENED?!
ARE YOU HURT, VINCENT?
BE CAREFUL FROM NOW ON
ALZEID!
OKAY!
I OWE YOU ONE.
THANKS
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE ASKING THE QUESTIONS!
WHAT ARE YOU HIDING?! WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?!
I WON'T COMPLAIN ABOUT HOW WE GOT INTO TROUBLE
BUT THIS ISN'T FAIR

IDIOT THIS PROPERTY DAMAGE IS ENTIRELY YOUR FAULT.
...I KNOW THAT, YOU...
...WILL BE THERE WITH THAT GRUMPY FACE FOR YOURS TO OFFER ME YOUR HAND
THANKS FOR OFFERING TO PAY FOR IT.
LIKE HELL I WILL!

I CAN'T...
...TRUST YOU GUYS.
Dazzle Volume 1 End

WAKE UP, STUPID GIRL!
DON'T ROLL OVER!
HOW COME YOU'RE SLEEPING IN MY BED?!
I WAS COLD...SO I THOUGHT I'D BE WARMER WITH TWO BLANKETS.
OH, YOU BROUGHT YOUR BLANKET?
And I didn't even notice it.
IT'S THE TEMPERATURE THE SOIL NEEDS TO BE FOR A PLANT TO PUT OUT BUDS.
THE "BODY TEMPERATURE OF SPRING."
I FOUND OUT THAT THE PERFECT TEMPERATURE IS 25 DEGREES CELSIUS*.
HUH?

187

Intermission: Heart's Outline (New Work)

196

...IT'S QUITE NORMAL THAT EVEN CLOSE FRIENDS CAN'T UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING ABOUT EACH OTHER.
EVEN THOUGH IN THE END, HUMAN BEINGS MAY BE ALONE FOREVER...
...WE CAN STILL GIVE WARMTH TO EACH OTHER.
AND THAT'S SUCH A FORTUNATE THING.
ぎゅっ
ぎゅ

IT MUST BE THE TEMPERATURE WHERE PLANTS FEEL THE BEST!
IN THE SAME WAY...
. HUMAN BODY TEMPERATURE IS THE BEST FOR HUMAN SKIN.
I GUESS I'LL SLEEP IN HER ROOM.
SO MY DAD SAID.
AND...
IS SHE FEELING HOMESICK?

To be continued...

In an attempt to force Alzeid to join them, Soresta and Baroqueheat kidnap Rahzel. But instead of compliance, what they get instead is a fight-and neither side is prepared for the outcome. Later, the shocking truth about Vincent's past and identity is revealed, while in another town Rahzel, Alzeid and Baroqueheat stumble upon another mystery when they befriend an ostracized father and daughter. However, when their secret is revealed to the world, violence abruptly tears another hole in Rahzel's life.

All will be revealed in Volume 2 of Dazzle!

RAH ZEL

height 152cm
weight 39kg
eye-color blue
hair-color black
likes
father tea dislike
pudding pie
eclair financier boric
tiramisu chiffon cake Insect
etc... Smoke